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Der moderne Hypnotismus, ein kritisches Essay. Prof. SEELIGMÜLLER.
Deutsche Med. Wochenschr., Jan. 5 and 12, 1888.

These articles constitute the beginning of a series as yet incomplete. The first is chiefly occupied with an account of the work of Bourru and Burot (reported above). The second shows that the experiments with drugs at a distance (which were sometimes applied without wrapper, sometimes in paper, in open, now in closed, now in corked tubes stopped with various waxes, gums, etc., and now hermetically sealed), were more quickly and intensely successful the less the substance tested was closed. The greater the dose, the greater the effect. At first no difference was made between odorous and non-odorous substances. With some subjects it is, with others it is not, important to which part of the body the application is made. There seems to be no education, and the first experiments are usually best. The precautions are shown to be often ridiculously inadequate. Ether is said to cause fascination, for a very intelligent lady who had experienced it assured the Rochefort sages that this was the case, etc. The conclusion here reached respecting nearly all the experiments on the action of drugs at a distance is that they have been made "with an ignorance, a prejudice, and a lack of common sense unprecedented in the history of modern medicine." If an experiment does not succeed, it is a new and unexpected effect, revealing, perhaps, a hitherto unknown property of the drug, or some other new explanation is at once proffered.

De la suggestion, et de ses applications à la thérapeutique. H. BERNHEIM, professeur à la Faculté de Médecine de Nancy. Deuxième édition. Paris, 1888, 596 pp.

This we regard as on the whole the most scientific of the many works that have appeared in France within the present decade upon this subject, and we deem it a matter of serious regret that writers representing this method and standpoint were not chosen by the publishers of the International Scientific Series to present the subject to English and American writers, in preference to such thoroughgoing partisans of the school of Charcot, which, after its great service in giving a memorable impulse to studies in this field by introducing a new ideal of scientific method, has been latterly so reluctant to accept the far better methods and results of Nancy, that discredit, not only for the Paris school but for this field, is imminent. The study of hypnotic phenomena at Nancy, which, began on the present lines by Liébeault, a student hardly less diligent and sagacious than Braid himself, and who had the advantage of coming after that investigator, has led to very different conclusions respecting hypnotism from those reached at Paris or Toulon. The school of Nancy believes that the so-called physical phenomena of hypnotism, including those of Charcot's three states, are purely psychic, that hypnotic sleep is the same as natural sleep, and that in the latter the same phenomena can be obtained as in hypnosis artificially induced in the same subjects, even catalepsy, hallucinations, transfer, contracture, and automatic movements, etc., all appearing on suggestion; that hallucinations are only suggested dreams, and dreams are only spontaneous hallucinations; that without suggestion hypnotic subjects remain torpid and inert, and really in natural slumber; that hypnotism is therefore not pathologic and has no necessary affinity with hysteria; that hys-